

## **REMARKS**

It is requested that reconsideration of the application be made on the basis of the amendatory action which has been taken herein.

Specifically, independent claims 18 and 31 have been amended to emphasize distinctive features of the invention. Claim 37 has been cancelled thereby overcoming the objecting raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112 against this claim. Claim 39 has also been cancelled. Claims 41-45 have been added. The claims now present in the application are claims 18-24, 31-36, 38 and 40-45.

Claims 18 and 31 now recite that the star observations are compared to a star catalog for identification of the star images and only star images which are out of the influence of the rim of the earth are utilized in star tracking whereas star images which are superimposed on the image of the rim of the earth are disregarded to eliminate interference of such star images in accuracy of determining tracking of the rim of the earth. The support for the language now employed in the independent claims can be found in original claim 5 and in the disclosure in the specification on page 6 in the third paragraph thereof. Claims 41-45 are dependent claims and are specifically directed to the invention as disclosed therein.

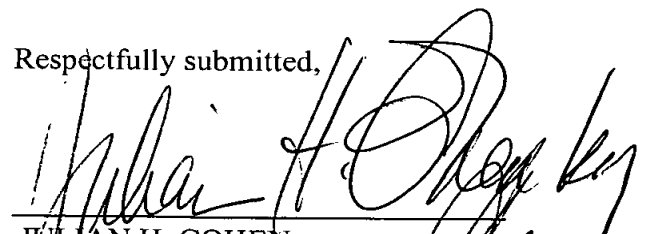
The Examiner has cited Falbel as the main reference and this is distinguished from the claims now presented insofar that Falbel utilizes three distinct stars only for tracking purposes (see column 2, lines 55-60). In contrast, the present invention is based on the content of original claim 5 and the disclosure on page 6 that based on a star catalog a

selection of areas of the image is made where all pixels are eliminated from consideration which suffer from disturbing interference effects of star image on the earth image and only those areas of the image are considered where a lookup in the star catalog identifies the respective images of the stars and the rim of the earth that do not interfere with one another. In other words, only those stars which are out of the influence of the rim of the earth are utilized in star tracking whereas those stars which interfere with the tracking of the rim of the earth (by being superimposed on these images) are eliminated from the tracking of the rim of the earth and thereby do not affect the accuracy of measurement of the rim of the earth.

The secondary references which have been cited by the Examiner are of no significance in respect of the differences which have been described hereinabove and therefore, when combined with Falbel do not have any effect on the patentability of the claims.

Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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